Applicants' respectfully request the withdrawal of the Examiner's objection to the drawings.

In paragraph 3, the Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the invention because the first sentence of the Abstract repeats the title of the invention. In response, the Applicants have amended the Abstract so as not to repeat the title of the invention in isolation. Finally, in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject mater which the Applicants regard as their invention. In response, the Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 in accordance with the Examiner's proposal of paragraph 6. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection.

The Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/8/02

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MARKED-UP AMENDED CLAIMS UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

1. (Amended) A method for guiding text-to-speech output timing with speech recognition markers comprising the steps of:

retrieving tokens in a text-to-speech (TTS) system, said tokens comprising words, phrase markers, punctuation marks and meta-tags;

identifying said phrase markers among said retrieved tokens;

identifying said words among said retrieved tokens;

[TTS ]playing back said identified words using said TTS system; and,

pausing said TTS playback in response to said identification of said phrase markers.

11. (Amended) A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

retrieving tokens in a text-to-speech (TTS) system, said tokens comprising words, phrase markers, punctuation marks and meta-tags;

identifying said phrase markers among said retrieved tokens;

identifying said words among said retrieved tokens;

[TTS ]playing back said identified words using said TTS system; and,

pausing said TTS playback in response to said identification of said phrase markers.

MARKED-UP REPLACEMENT SECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(2)(iii)

A method for guiding text-to-speech output timing with speech recognition markers[. The method of the invention] can include the following steps. First, tokens can be retrieved in a TTS system. The tokens can include words, phrase markers, punctuation marks and meta-tags. Second, phrase markers can be identified among the retrieved tokens. Third, words can be identified among the retrieved tokens. Fourth, the TTS system can TTS play back the identified words. Finally, during the TTS playback of the words, the TTS system can pause in response to the identification of the phrase markers.

REPLACEMENT SECTION IN CLEAN FORM UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(2)(ii)

A method for guiding text-to-speech output timing with speech recognition markers can include the following steps. First, tokens can be retrieved in a TTS system. The tokens can include words, phrase markers, punctuation marks and meta-tags. Second, phrase markers can be identified among the retrieved tokens. Third, words can be identified among the retrieved tokens. Fourth, the TTS system can TTS play back the identified words. Finally, during the TTS playback of the words, the TTS system can pause in response to the identification of the phrase markers.